In the Claims:

Claim 1 is amended herein. Non-elected claim 2 is canceled. New claims 3-15 are added.

1. (currently amended) A gliding door latch mechanism, comprising:

a handle operatively connected to a latch member for latching and unlatching the gliding door;

a gear reduction ~~handle~~ mechanism operatively cooperating with said handle; and

a lower door opening push member cooperatively acting with the handle to assist in pushing the door open in concert with unlatching of the door by operation of the handle.

2. (canceled)

3. (new) A gliding door latch mechanism according to claim 1, further comprising an elongate actuator member drivingly engaged by operation of said handle to move said actuator member in a substantially vertical direction, and wherein said lower door opening push member is drivingly engaged with said elongate actuator member to move in said substantially horizontal direction.

4. (new) A gliding door latch mechanism according to claim 1, further comprising a cam member operatively engaged with said

actuator member and said lower door opening push member, for converting substantially vertical direction movement of said actuator member to substantially horizontal direction movement of said lower door opening push member.

5. (new) A gliding door latch mechanism according to claim 4, wherein said cam member comprises a rotational axis and a portion engaging said actuator member to cause rotation of said cam in response to movement of said actuator member, and said cam further comprises a portion engaging said lower door opening push member, whereby rotational movement of said cam causes substantially horizontal direction movement of said push member.

6. (new) A gliding door latch mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said lower door opening push member is slidingly mounted to enable movement thereof inwardly and outwardly of the door.

7. (new) A latch and opening mechanism for a gliding door, comprising:

a latch member operatively connected with a handle for latching and unlatching of said latch member with a latching receiving portion in response to operation of said handle; and

a handle movement transmission system for transmitting unlatching movement of said handle to a door opening assist member, for causing door opening assist movement of said assist member as a result of unlatching operation of said handle.

8. (new) The latch and opening mechanism for a gliding door according to claim 7, wherein said handle transmission system comprises a gear reduction member operatively engaged with said handle and an actuator bar drive by said gear reduction member for translating movement of said handle to substantially linear movement of said actuator drive bar.

9. (new) The latch and opening mechanism for a gliding door according to claim 8, further comprising a cam system operatively connecting said actuator drive bar and said door opening assist member, for translating the movement of said actuator drive bar into movement of said door opening assist member in a different direction than the movement of said actuator drive bar.

10. (new) The latch and opening mechanism for a gliding door according to claim 8, wherein said actuator drive bar moves in a substantially vertical direction and said door opening assist member moves in a substantially horizontal direction.

11. (new) The latch and opening mechanism for a gliding door according to claim 7, wherein said handle and assist member are mounted to a gliding door, and said assist member is positions to extend away from a plane of the gliding door and push against a frame of the door to assist in opening of the gliding door by operation of the handle.

12. (new) The latch and opening mechanism for a gliding door according to claim 6, wherein said door opening assist member is slidingly mounted to enable movement of the actuator bar inwardly and outwardly of the door.

13. (new) A gliding door latch system, comprising:

a handle in a door, adapted for rotational movement;

a first partial gear pinion member operatively cooperating with said handle to rotate in conjunction with rotational movement of said handle;

a second partial gear member engaging with said first partial gear member, whereby rotation of said first partial gear member causes rotation of said second partial gear member, said second partial gear comprising a first and second slot therein;

a latch member having a pin attached thereto, said pin riding in said first slot, wherein as a result of the attachment of the pin to said latch member, said latch member moves as a result of movement of said handle;

an actuator bar having a first pin member at a first position thereof riding in said second slot, wherein rotation of the second partial gear member result in movement of said actuator bar pin which causes actuator bar to also move upwardly in that direction, said actuator bar further having a second pin member at a second position distal from said first position,

a cam engaged by said second pin member, said cam adapted for rotational movement with linear movement of said actuator bar;

a door opening assist member engaged by said cam, wherein movement of said cam urges said door opening assist member to move outwardly away from a body of the door to assist in pushing said door from a closed position to start an opening movement thereof.

14. (new) The gliding door latch system according to claim 13, wherein said door opening assist member is slidingly mounted to enable movement of the actuator bar inwardly and outwardly of the door.

15. (new) The gliding door latch system according to claim 13, further comprising a latch member operatively cooperating with said handle for unlatching movement when said handle is operated in a direction.